

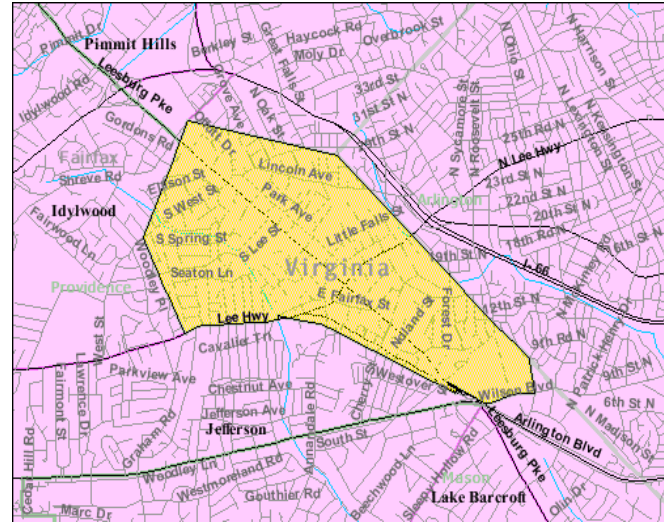
# COMMUNITY PROFILE



## COMMUNITY PROFILE: WE LIVE HERE

The City of Falls Church is a unique city that balances its village community with exciting development along its main streets. Ideally situated between two large counties (Fairfax and Arlington), the City is 2.2 square miles and had a population of 10,377 people in 2000. The City's history dates back to the late 1600's when it was an early colonial settlement shared with Native Americans. The community grew up around The Falls Church, which was founded in 1734.

Today the City is experiencing unprecedented growth due in large part to the approval of several mixed-use commercial/residential/office complexes. The City's public schools continue to be ranked among the highest in the nation.



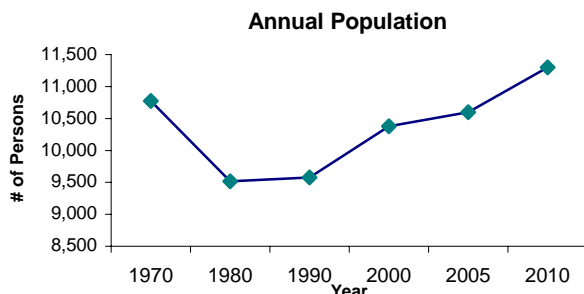
### Demographics at a Glance

Year	1990	2000	+/- Change	% Change
Population	9578	10,377	799	8.3%
Number of Households	4,195	4,471	276	6.6%
Median Household Income	\$51,011	\$74,924	\$23,913	46.9%
Average Household Size	2.27 persons	2.31 persons	0.03	1.3%

### Projected Demographics

	2005	2010
Population	10,600	11,300
Number of Households	4,600	4,900
Jobs in City	9,500	10,000

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1 and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1; Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Northern Virginia Data Book 2004.



Source: Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Northern Virginia Data Book 2004, Projected Population 2000-2030, page 13 & 15.

## GROWTH TRENDS

The City of Falls Church's growth has been largely a result of zoning changes that have allowed for a variety of uses on a single site. In 2004, the City approved three mixed-use projects that will add an additional 800 housing units within the next three years; a 13% increase in the housing stock. Of particular note is that the significant increase in housing is not the result of an increase in single-family home construction; the additional units are condominiums in multifamily buildings.

### Population Growth

The *City of Falls Church 2000 Population Estimates* reports 10,377 residents, which is a narrow 1% increase over the 2000 Census population data, but a 9% increase over the 1990 Census data. Growth in the City is the smallest in the Northern Virginia region. Northern Virginia consists of the independent cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William, and the Towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Leesburg, Purcellville and Vienna.

Despite relatively small growth, the City is the fourth densest jurisdiction in Northern Virginia and the 17<sup>th</sup> densest jurisdiction in the United States, with an estimated 5,189 persons per square mile.

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## Population and Household Characteristics

The average household size in the City of Falls Church decreased between the years 1950 and 1980, however the last three decades have shown modest growth in household size. The 1980 average household size was 2.23 persons; in 2000, it increased to 2.31 persons. In addition, the total number of households in the City increased between 1950 and 1980. For the first time since 1960, however, the City is experiencing both an increase in household size and households.

### Household Population & Average Size (by year)

Year	Households	Average Household Size
1950	2,110	3.53
1960	2,812	3.59
1970	3,685	2.90
1980	4,250	2.23
1990	4,195	2.27
2000	4,471	2.31

Source: Northern Virginia Regional Commission, *Northern Virginia Data Book 2004*, Projected Households 2000-2030, page 65.

The City of Falls Church and every other jurisdiction in Northern Virginia has seen a steady decrease in average household size, but increases in both non-family (un-related by blood or marriage) and one-person households. Between 1960 and 2000, the percentage of family households in the City decreased from 91.0% to 58.6%.

### Households by Type

Year	Households	Family		Non-Family		One Person		With Children		With Elderly	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1960	2812	2559	91.0%	253	9.0%	223	7.9%	1762	62.7%	-	-
1970	3685	2964	80.4%	721	19.6%	645	17.5%	1579	42.8%	-	-
1980	4250	2573	60.5%	1677	39.5%	1417	33.3%	1046	24.6%	2861	15.3%
1990	4195	2484	59.2%	1711	40.8%	1390	33.1%	1069	25.5%	3798	12.5%
2000	4471	2622	58.6%	1849	41.4%	1511	33.8%	1410	31.5%	6897	11.5%
2005	4600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	4900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Northern Virginia Regional Commission, *Northern Virginia Data Book 2004*, Type of Households 1960-2000, page 67.

Although the population of the City is increasing, the median age of the City indicates that the population is getting older – the median age of residents in 1970 was 30.4 years and increased to 39.7 in 2000. The median age of Falls Church City residents is the oldest in the Northern Virginia region. As noted in the table below, the City has seen a 99% increase in the population age 85 and over. Although it is difficult to isolate a specific contributing factor for this increase, the Sunrise Assisted Living Facility, which serves residents in this age cohort, was constructed between 1990 and 2000.

### Household population Distribution by Age

Household population by Age	2000 Census Data		1990 Census Data		Percent Change
Under 5 Years	571	6%	551	6%	4%
5 to 24 Years	2391	23%	2010	21%	19%
25 to 44 Years	3232	31%	3603	38%	-10%
45 to 64 Years	2921	28%	1975	21%	48%
64 to 84 Years	1057	10%	1336	14%	-21%
85 Years and Over	205	2%	103	1%	99%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1 and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1

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## Racial Composition

The population growth in the City of Falls Church is coupled with an increase in minority households. While the percent of White (non-Hispanic) households has remained the same over the 1990-2000 time frame, there have been significant increases in the percentage of Hispanic and Asian households.

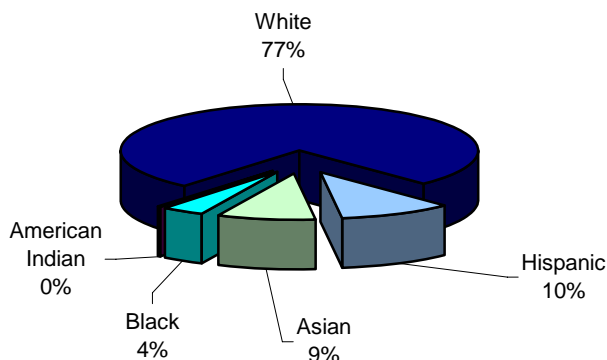
### Household Population by Race/Ethnic Origin

Race/Ethnic Origin	Number of Households 2000 Census Data		Number of Households 1990 Census Data		Percent Change
Black/African American	340	3%	266	3%	28%
Caucasian/White	8817	80%	8533	80%	3%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	25	2%	101	2%	-75%
Asian	675	7%	431	7%	57%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	7	0%	2	0%	7%
Hispanic (any race)	876	8%	261	8%	236%
Persons reporting some other race, percent, 2000	261	3%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2000	252	2%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1 and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1

The population, race, and ethnicity demographics are also reflected in the public school system. As in the general population, the second-largest ethnicity/race group within the public schools is Hispanic students.

**Falls Church Public School Ethnicity/Race  
Demographic – 2002-2003<sup>2</sup>**



**Falls Church Public Schools Student Profile 2002-2003<sup>3</sup>**

	Student Population	% of ESL Students
George Mason High School	611	8.84%
George Mason Middle School	453	5.74%
Thomas Jefferson Elementary School	522	13.22%
Mt. Daniel Elementary School	260	13.85%

<sup>2</sup> Falls Church City Public Schools website: [www.fccps.k12.va.us](http://www.fccps.k12.va.us).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. ESL is the abbreviation for English as a Second Language



## SOCIAL TRENDS

### Education<sup>3</sup>

The City of Falls Church has the highest percentage of residents with a Bachelor's degree in the nation and in Virginia. In addition, the City has the highest percentage of residents with any type of advanced degree of any Northern Virginia jurisdiction and any jurisdiction in the United States. Sixty-three percent of the City's adult population (age 25 and older) has a Bachelor's degree and 33.8% hold advanced degrees.

In 2003, there were approximately 1,817 students enrolled in Falls Church City Public Schools. As the City moves forward with development opportunities, it is expected that public school enrollment will increase. Among high school graduates, the number of students pursuing a secondary education is well above 80 percent. However, that is the lowest it has been in the last 15 years. The number of students attending four-year colleges has decreased while the number of students attending two-year colleges has increased. The City has the lowest high school dropout percentage in Northern Virginia, with 0.2% of the students withdrawing from school.



<sup>3</sup> Source: Northern Virginia Regional Commission, *Northern Virginia Data Book 2004*, Educational Attainment, Public School Enrollment, Projected Public School Enrollment 2003-2008, High School Graduates Continuing their Education 1981-2002, High School Dropouts in Northern Virginia 1981-2002, National Ranking: Percent of Adult Population (25 and older) with College Degree 2000, National Ranking: Percent of Adult Population (25 and older) with Advanced Degree 2000; pps., 117, 119, 124, 127,131,135

### Income<sup>4</sup>

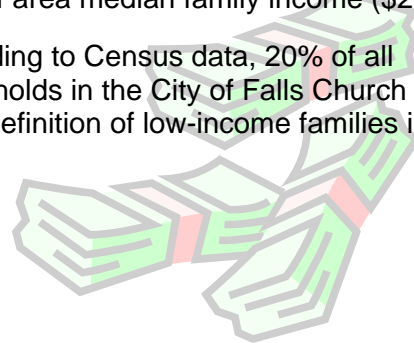
The City of Falls Church continues to grow as a community of high-wage/high-income residents. It currently has the highest median *family* income in the United States, \$97,225. In contrast, the City's median *household* income is \$74,924. Approximately one out of 10 households in the City has a household income above \$150,000.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Low & Moderate Income Households**

The 2004 U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) established median family income for the Washington, DC-Maryland-Virginia area is \$85,400. HUD income limits are used to determine the households within a jurisdiction that meet the income eligibility for federal programs such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) and other housing programs. HUD income groupings are categorized as follows:

- ☐ **Moderate-income:** 51-80% of area median family income (80% of median is \$68,320);
- ☐ **Low-income:** at or below 50% of area median family income (\$42,700); and
- ☐ **Extremely low-income:** at or below 30% of area median family income (\$26,100)

According to Census data, 20% of all households in the City of Falls Church met the HUD definition of low-income families in 2000.



<sup>4</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1

<sup>5</sup> Family income refers to the income of members of the same family (related by blood or marriage); household income refers to all persons living in a housing unit.

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## Poverty

The federal poverty level for a family of four in 1999 was \$16,895 (the 2000 Census records poverty data uses 1999 poverty levels). Within the City of Falls Church, approximately 4.2% of the population has incomes below the poverty level, compared to 5.6% of the Northern Virginia population. In fact, the poverty rate for Falls Church City residents decreased from the 1990 poverty rate of 5.8%. Although the majority of the City's population is white, minority households disproportionately have incomes below the poverty level. One out of every 10 Black and Hispanic families has a household income below the poverty level.

### Households Poverty Levels by Race

Race/Ethnicity	Above Poverty	Below Poverty	% Below Poverty
White	8475	317	3.6%
Black	228	28	10.9%
Am. Indian/Alaskan Native	25	0	0.0%
Asian	636	38	5.6%
Hispanic	772	120	13.5%
Non-Hispanic Whites	7960	230	2.8%

Source: Northern Virginia Regional Commission, *Northern Virginia Data Book 2004*, page 99.

## Source of Income

Source of Income	# of Residents Receiving Income	% of Residents Receiving Income
Social Security	903	20%
Supplemental Social Security	75	2%
Public Assistance	60	1%
Wage or Salary Income	3686	82%
Self Employment Income	730	16%
Interest, Dividends, or Net Rental Income	2801	63%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing. Summary File 3

Approximately 4% of the City's population has a household income below the federal poverty limit (e.g., \$16,895 for a household of four). Youth are also disproportionately affected by poverty with approximately 4.5% of the children ages 0 to 17 living below poverty level.

There are relatively few households in the City that receive public assistance or Supplemental Social Security income. Although 4% of the City's population has a household income below the poverty level, only 1% of the City's population receives public assistance.

## Infant, Child, and Maternal Health

According to Commonwealth of Virginia health statistics, there were 92 births in the City in 2002, a 4.5% increase over the previous year. The percentage of births to parents who were not married for the same year was 9.8%. Twelve percent of families in the City are female-headed households with children under age 17. Further, teen pregnancies continue to decline and dropped dramatically from 26 pregnancies in 2001 to 9 in 2002. However, all nine pregnancies were terminated through abortions.

According to the 2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Needs Assessment, 93% of employed persons age 16 years and older have health insurance. While there was no data to indicate the overall physical health of the City's population, approximately 11.5% of the City's population self-identified as having a mental or emotional problem to the point of needing help.

# COMMUNITY PROFILE



## Crime

The City of Falls Church crime rate peaked in the early to mid 1990s. However, since then, the crime rate has decreased dramatically. In 1994, the City's crime rate was 8,011 crimes per 100,000 people or 8.01%. However, in 1999, the number of crimes per 100,000 was 4,888 or 4.89%. Among criminal activity, larceny and destruction/vandalism are the highest reported crimes in the City. In 2001, there were 2,672 reported incidents of larceny and 1,583 reported incidents of destruction/vandalism. However, between 1994 and 1999, the number of incidents of reported larceny decreased by 39%.

The number of juveniles that are involved with the justice system is decreasing. In 1987, there were 20 juveniles arrested for Part I offenses (larceny, motor vehicle theft), but in 1999 there were only 10 juveniles arrested for the same offenses, a 50% decrease.

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The labor force within the City of Falls Church has decreased since 1997. In 2000, there were 15,831 individuals employed in the City of Falls Church, an 18% decrease since 1997. Although the number of employees may be decreasing, the number of jobs in the City is increasing. In 2002, there were 14,506 jobs in the City, which is a 17 % increase over 1992.

## Labor Force Characteristics

The City of Falls Church has seen modest growth in its labor force. The labor force participation rate for the City is 73.5%. The labor force participation rate is the percent of persons age 16 and over who are employed or seeking employment. In 2002, there were 6,308 residents in the labor force, a 7% increase since 1990. The City has the highest percentage (7.1% or 413 persons) of individuals who are self-employed in a non-incorporated business. The percentage of female City residents in the labor force is 68.2%.

The City has the highest percent (65.5%) of civilian workers employed in management, professional and related occupations in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest percentage in the nation.

## Unemployment

The unemployment rate in the City of Falls Church has decreased since 1992 and continues to be below the national and regional averages. In 1992, the unemployment rate in the City was 5.5%, compared with 2.9% in 2002.

## Employment Characteristics

The City of Falls Church economy is dominated by small business and professional, scientific, and technical services, with 504 such establishments in the City as of 1997. Although the majority of business establishments are professional, scientific, and technical services, the City's retail trade industry provides the largest sales receipts/revenue, reporting over \$1,288,014 in 1997. Moreover, the retail/trade industry is also the largest City employer, with over 5,870 employees. According to year 2000 data on City Business patterns, professional, scientific and technical services still had the highest number of establishments (143), but medical and surgical hospitals employed the largest number of people, ranging from between 2,500 and 5,000 employees.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE SUMMARY

- City residents have high incomes and are well educated
- Crime and unemployment are low
- City is growing and is densely populated

